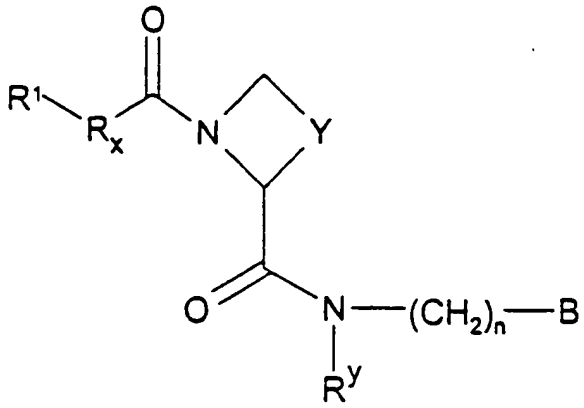
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A compound of formula I,



I

wherein

R^1 represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano, halo, OH, $C(O)OR^{1a}$ or $C(O)N(R^{1b})R^{1c}$) or OR^{1d};

R^{1d} represents H, $C(O)R^{11}$, $SiR^{12}R^{13}R^{14}$ or C_{1-6} alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted or terminated by one or more substituent selected from OR^{15} or $(CH_2)_qR^{16}$;

R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent H, phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{16} represents C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl, OH, $C(O)OR^{17}$ or $C(O)N(H)R^{18}$;

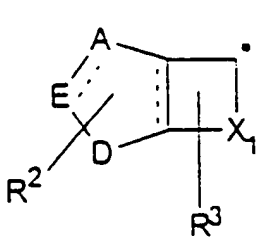
R^{18} represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $CH_2C(O)OR^{19}$;

R^{15} and R^{17} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl;

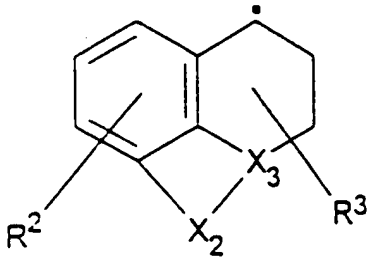
R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{1c}, R^{11} and R^{19} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

q represents 0, 1 or 2;

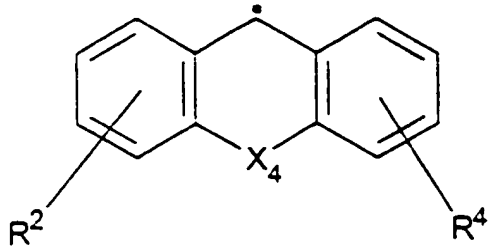
R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, IIb or IIc,



IIa



IIb



IIc

wherein

the dotted lines independently represent optional bonds;

A and E independently represent O or S, CH or CH_2 (as appropriate), or N or $N(R^{21})$ (as appropriate);

D represents $-CH_2-$, O, S, $N(R^{22})$, $-(CH_2)_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2N(R^{22})-$, $-N(R^{22})CH_2-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-CH_2S-$ or $-SCH_2-$;

X_1 represents C_{2-4} alkylene; C_{2-3} alkylene interrupted by Z; $-C(O)-Z-A^1-$; $-Z-C(O)-A^1-$; $-CH_2-C(O)-A^1-$; $-Z-C(O)-Z-A^2-$; $-CH_2-Z-C(O)-A^2$; $-Z-CH_2-C(O)-A^2-$; $-Z-CH_2-S(O)_m-A^2$; $-C(O)-A^3$; $-Z-A^3-$; or $-A^3-Z-$;

X_2 represents C_{2-3} alkylene, $-C(O)-A^4-$ or $-A-^4C(O)-$;

X_3 represents CH or N;

X_4 represents a single bond, O, S, C(O), $N(R^{23})$, $-CH(R^{23})-$, $-CH(R^{23})-CH(R^{24})-$ or $-C(R^{23})=C(R^{24})-$;

A^1 represents a single bond or C_{1-2} alkylene;

A^2 represents a single bond or $-CH_2-$;

A^3 represents C_{1-3} alkylene;

A^4 represents C(O) or C_{1-2} alkylene;

Z represents, at each occurrence, O, $S(O)_m$ or $N(R^{25})$;

R^2 and R^4 independently represent one or more optional substituents selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), methylenedioxy, halo, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, $S(O)_2NH_2$, $C(O)OR^{26}$, SR^{26}, $S(O)R^{26a}$, $S(O)_2R^{26a}$ or $N(R^{27})R^{28}$;

R^3 represents one or more optional substituents selected from OH, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo group), or $N(R^{29a})R^{29b}$;

R^{25}, R^{29a} and R^{29b} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$;

R^{26} represents H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{26a} represents C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{27} and R^{28} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$, or together represent C_{3-6} alkylene, thus forming a 4- to 7-membered ring, which ring is optionally substituted, on a carbon atom that is α to the nitrogen atom, with an =O group;

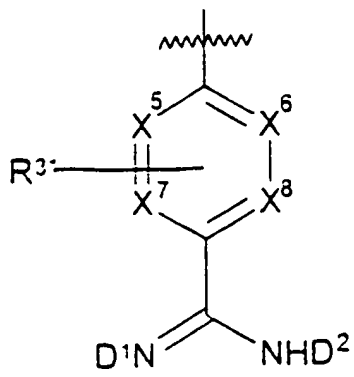
R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24} and R^{30} independently represent, at each occurrence, H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Y represents CH_2, $(CH_2)_2$, CH = CH (which latter group is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl), $(CH_2)_3$, $CH_2CH=CH$ or $CH=CHCH_2$ (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, methylene, =O or hydroxy);

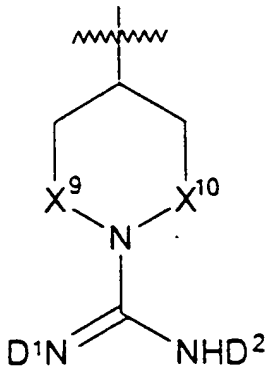
R^y represents H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

n represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

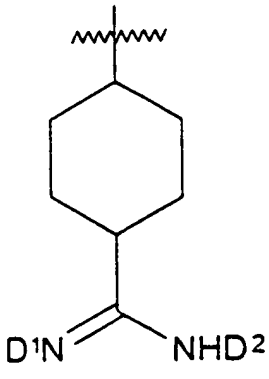
B represents a structural fragment of formula IIIa, IIIb or IIIc



IIIa



IIIb



IIIc

wherein

X^5, X^6, X^7 and X^8 independently represent CH, N or N-O;

X^9 and X^{10} independently represent a single bond or CH_2;

R^{31} represents an optional substituent selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl (which group is optionally substituted by one or more halo group), $N(R^{32})R^{33}$, OR^{34} or SR^{35};

R^{32} and R^{33} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{36}$;

R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

one of D^1 and D^2 represents H, and the other represents H, OR^a, NHR^a, $C(=X^{11})X^{12}R^b$, or D^1 and D^2 together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa:-

R^a represents H or $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$;

R^b represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$;

A^5 represents, at each occurrence, a single bond or C_{1-12} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group, and is optionally substituted by one or more of halo, OH, $N(H)C(O)R^g$, $C(O)N(R^g)R^h$, C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl (which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group and/or is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, =O or =S), Het and C_{6-10} aryl (which aryl and Het groups are themselves optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, cyano, $C(O)OR^g$, $C(O)N(R^g)R^h$ and $N(R^f)R^g$));

R^c and R^d both represent H; or one of R^c and R^d represents H or C_{1-7} alkoxy and the other represents C_{1-17} alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O atoms); or R^c and R^d together represent C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, which cycloalkyl group is interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group;

R^e represents, at each occurrence, H, C_{1-12} alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group, and/or is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, OH, $N(H)C(O)R^g$ and $C(O)N(R^g)R^h$), A^7-C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl (which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group and/or is substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, =O and =S), A^7-C_{6-10} aryl or A^7-Het (which aryl and Het groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl

(optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, cyano, $C(O)OR^g$, $C(O)N(R^g)R^h$ and $N(R^f)R^g$);

A^7 represents a single bond or C_{1-7} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or $N(R^f)$ group, and/or are optionally substituted by one or more of halo, OH, $N(H)COR^g$ and $CON(R^g)R^h$);

Het represents, at each occurrence, a five- to ten-membered heteroaryl group, which may be aromatic in character, containing one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms in the ring system;

n and r independently represent 0 or 1;

X^{11}, X^{12} and X^{14} independently represent O or S;

X^{13} represents O or $N(R^f)$;

R^f represents, at each occurrence, H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^g$;

R_g and R^h independently represent, at each occurrence, H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

m represents, at each occurrence, 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

provided that:

(a) A and E do not both represent O or S;

(b) E and D do not both represent O or S;

(c) when R^1 represents OR^{1d} and X_1 represents $-C(O)-Z-A^1$,

$-Z-CH_2S(O)_m-A^2-$ or $-Z-C(O)-Z-A^2$, then A^1 or A^2 (as appropriate) do not represent a single bond;

(f) when X_4 represents $-CH(R^{23})-$, R^1 does not represent OH;

(g) when A^5 represents a single bond, then n and r both represent 0;

(f) when A^5 represents C_{1-12} alkylene, then n represents 1;

(g) when A^5 represents $-CH_2-$, n is 1 and r is 0, then R^e does not represent H; and

(h) the compound is not:-

(S)- or *(R)*-1 -hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;

(R)- or *(S)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

(R)- or *(S)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;

1-hydroxy-5-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

1-hydroxy-5,7-dimethyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

1-hydroxy-7-aminotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

1-hydroxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

(R)- or (S)-7-methoxy-1-methyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;

4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x OAc;

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-4-methoxyindan-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;

1-hydroxy-5-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);

(*S*)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);

4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);

4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OMe);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-

$(C(O)OCH_2CCl_3)$;

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-

$(C(O)OCH_2CH_3)$;

7-methoxy-1-allyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-chlorotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;

1-*n*-propyl-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

6-chloro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

6,8-dichloro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

6-fluoro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

4-hydroxy-6-methylchroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

8-chloro-4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

6-chloro-4-hydroxy-8-methylcbroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

(*S*)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-*i*-Pr);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-Et);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-Ch);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-allyl);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(0-Bzl);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-
(CO-O-methallyl);

1-hydroxy-7-aminotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-Val);

(S)- or *(R)*-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-(Me)Pab; or

9-hydroxyfluoren-9-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc.

2 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R^1 represents OH or

C_{1-4} alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted by cyano or OH).

3 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa or IIb.

4 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, when R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, then the dotted lines represent bonds, A and E both represent CH and D represents -CH=CH-;

5 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, when R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, X_1 represents optionally unsaturated C_2- or C_3-alkylene, or -Z-A^3 (in which Z represents O, $S(O)_m$ or $N(R^{25})$ (in which R^{25} is as defined ~~in Claim 1~~ above or represents C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$ and m and R^{30} are as defined ~~in Claim 1~~ above) and A^3 represents C_1- or C_2-alkylene (which latter group is optionally unsaturated)).

6 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein Y represents CH_2, $(CH_2)_2$ or $(CH_2)_3$.

7 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula IIIa in which X^5, X^6, X^7 and X^8 all represent CH.

8 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, when D^1 and D^2 together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa, in which X^{13} is O, then one of R^c and R^d represents H or C_{1-7} alkoxy and the other represents C_{1-7} alkyl.

9 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein, when D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a and R^a represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$, and

(i) A^5 is a single bond, then R^e is:-

(1) A^7-aryl, optionally substituted by one or more halo, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl or halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl substituents; or

(2) H or linear, branched, optionally unsaturated, and/or cyclic, C_{1-12} alkyl, which cyclic alkyl group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and, optionally, a further O atom or $S(O)_m$ group; or when

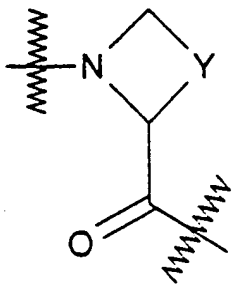
(ii) A^5 is linear or branched C_{1-12} alkylene, X^{14} is O and r is 0, then R^e is C_{1-3} alkyl or A^7-aryl, in which A^7 is a single bond.

10 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7 or 9~~claim 1, wherein, when D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a, then R^a is H or C_{1-4} alkyl.

11 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein, when D^1 or D^2 represents $-C(=X^{11})X^{12}R^b$, in which X^{11} represents O

and X^{12} represents O or S, and, in which R^b group, A^5 represents a single bond then R^e represents optionally unsaturated C_{1-6} alkyl, A^7-C_{6-10}-aryl (in which A^7 represents a single bond or C_{1-2} alkylene, and which A^7-C_{6-10}-aryl group is optionally substituted by one or more halo, C_{1-4} alkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups), or A^7-C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl, in which A^7 represents a single bond or linear or branched C_{1-7} alkylene, and which cycloalkyl group is optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl.

12 (currently amended). A compound of formula I, as defined in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the fragment



is in the S-configuration.

13 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

14 (currently amended). A compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

15 (currently amended). A compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

16 (currently amended). A compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of thrombosis.

17 (currently amended). A compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

18 (currently amended). The use of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

19 (original). The use as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

20 (currently amended). The use of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an anticoagulant.

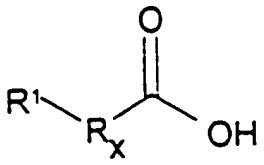
21 (currently amended). A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

22 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

23 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the condition is hypercoagulability in blood and tissues.

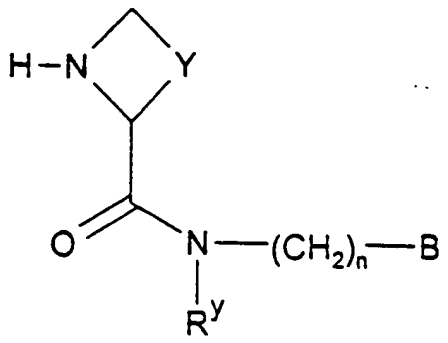
24 (original). A process for the preparation of compounds of formula I which comprises:

(i) the coupling of a compound of formula IV,



IV

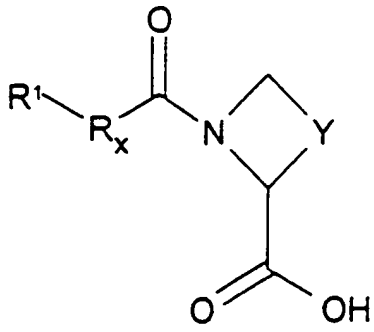
wherein R^1 and R_x are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V,



V

wherein R^y, Y, n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(ii) the coupling of a compound of formula VI,



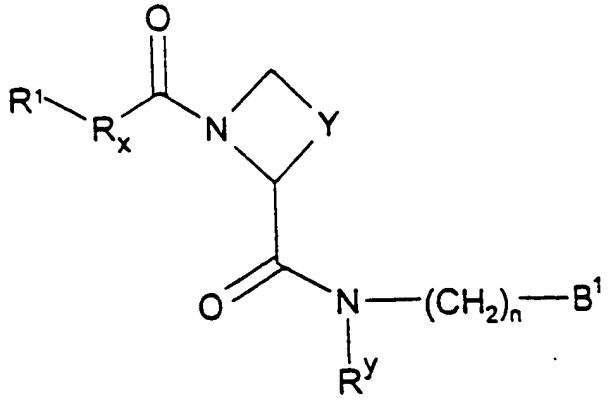
VI

wherein R^1, R_x and Y are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula VII,

$$H(R^y)N\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}B \qquad \text{VII}$$

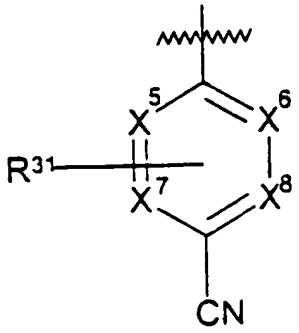
wherein R^y, n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(iii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a, reaction of a compound of formula VIII,

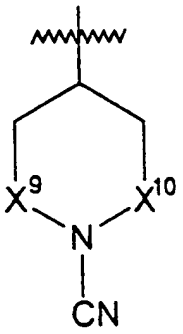


VIII

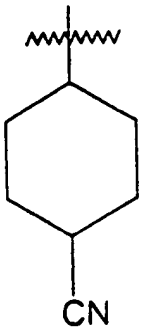
wherein B^1 represents a structural fragment of formula IIId, IIIe or IIIf



IIId



IIIe



IIIf

and R^1, R_x, Y, R^y, n, R^{31}, X^5, X^6, X^7, X^8, X^9 and X^{10} are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula IX,

$$H_2NX^aR^a \qquad IX$$

wherein X^a represents O or NH and R^a is as defined in Claim 1;

(iv) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 (as appropriate) represents

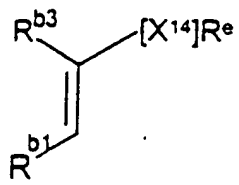
$C(O)OR^{b1}$, in which R^{b1} represents a protecting group with a compound of formula IX as defined above;

(v) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a, R^a represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$, in which A^5 does not represent a single bond, and n represent 1, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 (as appropriate) represents OH or NH_2, with a compound of formula X,

$$L^1A^{5a}[X^{14}][C(O)]_rR^e \qquad X$$

wherein L^1 represents a suitable leaving group, A^{5a} represents A^5, as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent a single bond, and X^{14}, r and R^e are as defined in Claim 1;

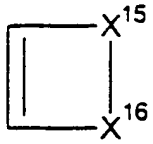
(vi) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a, R^a represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$, in which A^5 represents $C_{2\text{-}12}$ alkylene, which alkylene group is branched at the carbon atom that is α to the O or N atom of OR^a or NHR^a (as appropriate), and which group is optionally branched at the carbon atom that is β to that atom, n represents 1, r represents 0 and R^e is as defined in Claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 (as appropriate) represents OH or NH_2, with a compound of formula XI,



XII

or a geometrical isomer thereof, or a mixture of such geometrical isomers, in which R^{b1} and R^{b3} each represent H or an alkyl group, provided that the total number of carbon atoms provided by R^{b1} and R^{b3} does not exceed 10, and wherein X^{14} and R^e are as defined in Claim 1;

(vii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a, represents $-A^5[X^{24}]_n[C(O)]_rR^e$, in which A^5 represents a single bond, and R^e represents A^7-C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, in which A^7 represents a single bond, and the cycloalkyl group is interrupted by at least one O or S atom, which atom is between the carbon atom at the point of attachment to the O or NH group of OR^a or NHR^a, and a carbon atom that is α to that point of attachment, and which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O or $S(O)_m$ group and/or optionally substituted by one or more =O group, reaction of a compound of formula I, in which D^1 or D^2 (as appropriate) represents OH or NH_2, with a compound of formula XII,



XII

wherein X^{15} represents O or S and X^{16} represents C_{1-4} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O or $S(O)_m$ group and/or optionally substituted by one or more =O group);

(viii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents $C(X^{11})X^{12}R^b$, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D^1 and D^2 both represent H with a compound of formula XIII,

$$L^2\text{-}C(X^{11})X^{12}R^b \qquad \text{XIII}$$

wherein L^2 represents a suitable leaving group, and X^{11}, X^{12} and R^b are as defined in Claim 1;

(ix) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 and D^2 together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OH or NHR^f (in which R^f is as defined in Claim 1), with a compound of formula XV,

$$(R^c)(R^d)C(R^{c1})(R^{c2}) \qquad \text{XV}$$

wherein R^{c1} and R^{c2} both represent $-OR^{c3}$, in which R^{c3} represents $C_{1\text{-}3}$ alkyl, or together represent =O, and R^c and R^d are as defined in Claim 1;

(x) for compounds of formula I in which one or more of X^5, X^6, X^7 and X^8 represent N-O, oxidation of a corresponding compound of formula I in which X^5, X^6, X^7 and/or X^8 (as appropriate) represent(s) N; or

(xi) for compounds of formula I in which any one of Z, X_1, R^2, R^4, A^5, A^7, R^c, R^d and/or R^e comprises or includes a (O) or a $S(O)_2$ group, oxidation of a corresponding compound of formula I (or a compound corresponding to a compound of formula I) wherein Z, X_1, R^2, R^4, A^5, A^7, R^c, Rd and/or R^e (as appropriate) comprise(s) or include(s) a S group;

(xii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 and D^2 both represent H, removal of a OR^a, NHR^a or $C(=X^{11})X^{12}R^b$ group (in which R^a, R^b, X^{11} and X^{12} are as defined in

Claim 1), or removal of a structural fragment of formula IVa as defined in Claim 1, from a corresponding compound of formula I; or

(xiii) introduction and/or interconversion of a substituent on an aromatic and/or non-aromatic, carbocyclic and/or heterocyclic ring in a corresponding compound of formula I.